

What is claimed is:

1. A multi-channel grants management system, comprising:
a grants management system operatively connected to a granting agency and a financial management system; and
an integration unit providing real-time integration between the grants management system and the financial management system allowing the grants management system to dynamically manage grant initiative transactions and financial transactions associated with a life-cycle of a grant initiative from the granting agency by automatically triggering events.
2. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the multi-channel grants management system provides multi-communication access to the grant initiative and the financial transactions, and file exchange to a user over a web-based portal, e-mail, a telephone, fax, or in person.
3. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the life-cycle comprises pre-application, grant publication, application intake, application review or assessment, grant award, grant administration, and grant closeout.
4. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the integration between the grants management system and the financial management system allows a user to communicate over a web-based portal with the grants management system and the financial management system.
5. The system as recited in claim 1, the integration unit facilitates transmission and messaging between the grants management system and the financial management system.
6. The system as recited in claim 5, wherein the integration unit triggers updates to the financial management system whenever an activity in

the grants management system has financial significance.

7. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the events comprise
an initiative setup process,
a pre-application and an application process,
a reviewer assignment process,
a review and ranking process,
a grant initiative selection process,
a requests of grants financial activities process,
an information transfer process, and
a financial close out process.

8. A multi-channel management system, comprising:
a financial management system; and
a grants management system
receiving a grant initiative from a granting agency,
receiving a grant initiative application from an
applicant via one of a web-portal, fax, in-person, and telephone,
integrally connected to the financial management
system to facilitate transmission and messaging between the grants
management system and the financial management system, and
dynamically managing grant initiative transactions and
financial transactions associated with a life-cycle of the grant initiative by
automatically triggering events.

9. The multi-channel management system as recited in claim 8,
wherein the multi-channel grants management system provides multi-
communication access to the grant initiative and financial transactions, and
file exchange to a user over a web-based portal, e-mail, a telephone, fax, or
in person.

10. The multi-channel management system as recited in claim 8,
wherein the life-cycle comprises pre-application, grant publication, application
intake, application review or assessment, grant award, grant administration,
and grant closeout.

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11. The multi-channel management system as recited in claim 8, wherein the grants management system triggers updates to the financial management system whenever an activity has financial significance.

12. The multi-channel management system as recited in claim 8, wherein the grants management system, simultaneously or after a reviewer has finished assessing the application, assesses the grant initiative application using a customizable decision rule data structure.

13. The multi-channel management system as recited in claim 8, wherein the grant initiative application is a customizable WYSIWIG application form.

14. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the events comprise an initiative setup process,
a pre-application and an application process,
a reviewer assignment process,
a review and ranking process,
a grant initiative selection process,
a requests of grants financial activities process,
an information transfer process, and
a financial close out process.

15. A system, comprising:
a web-based portal;
a grants management system
receiving a grant initiative from a granting agency via
the web-based portal,
receiving a grant initiative application from an applicant
via one of fax, thin client, in-person, and telephone and entering the grant
initiative application via the web-based portal,
dynamically selecting a reviewer that is best qualified
to review the application according to the grant initiative from the granting
agency and to generate a score,

dynamically evaluating the grant initiative application using customizable decision rule data structures and generating a score, combining the scores from the reviewer and the grants management system to create a composite score to determine an application to award the grant initiative;

a financial management system managing financial information of the grant initiative; and

an integration unit facilitating transmission and messaging between the grants management system and the financial management system to dynamically manage grant initiative transactions and financial transactions associated with a life-cycle of the grant initiative by automatically triggering events comprising an initiative setup process, a pre-application and an application process, a reviewer assignment process, a review and ranking process, a grant initiative selection process, a requests of grants financial activities process, an information transfer process, and a financial close out process, with the life-cycle comprising pre-application, grant publication, application intake, application review or assessment, grant award, grant administration, and grant closeout.

16. The multi-channel management system as recited in claim 15, wherein the multi-channel grants management system provides multi-channel communication access to the grant initiative and financial transactions, and file exchange to a user over a web-based portal, e-mail, a telephone, fax, or in person.

17. The system as recited in claim 15, wherein the integration unit triggers updates to the financial management system whenever an activity in the grants management system has financial significance.

18. The system as recited in claim 15, wherein the grant initiative application is a customizable WYSIWIG application form.

19. A method, comprising:
operatively connecting a grants management system to a granting agency and a financial management system; and

providing real-time integration between the grants management system and the financial management system allowing the grants management system to dynamically manage grant initiative transactions and financial transactions associated with a life-cycle of a grant initiative from the granting agency by automatically triggering events.

20. The method as recited in claim 19, wherein the events comprise

- an initiative setup process,
- a pre-application and an application process,
- a reviewer assignment process,
- a review and ranking process,
- a grant initiative selection process,
- a requests of grants financial activities process,
- an information transfer process, and
- a financial close out process.

21. A method performed by a grants management system, comprising:

- receiving a grant initiative from a granting agency via a web-based portal;
- automatically retrieving and notifying a potential and/or past applicant of availability of the grant initiative;
- receiving a grant initiative application from an applicant via the web-based portal;
- dynamically evaluating the grant initiative application using customizable decision rule data structures and generating a score; and
- interfacing with a financial management system to dynamically manage grant initiative transactions and financial transactions associated with a life-cycle of the grant initiative by automatically triggering events.

22. The method as recited in claim 21, wherein the events comprise

- an initiative setup process,
- a pre-application and an application process,

a reviewer assignment process,
a review and ranking process,
a grant initiative selection process,
a requests of grants financial activities process,
an information transfer process, and
a financial close out process.

23. The method as recited in claim 21, wherein the life-cycle comprises pre-application, grant publication, application intake, application review or assessment, grant award, grant administration, and grant closeout.

24. A method, comprising:
applying for a grant initiative over a web-based portal;
dynamically notifying an applicant of problems while applying for the grant initiative;
receiving a grant initiative application;
dynamically selecting a reviewer that is best qualified to review the grant initiative application according to the grant initiative;
notifying the reviewer of the grant initiative assigned for review;
evaluating the grant initiative application using customizable decision rule data structures and generating a score; and
interfacing with a financial management system to dynamically manage grant initiative transactions and financial transactions associated with a life-cycle of the grant initiative by automatically triggering events.

25. The method as recited in claim 24, wherein the events comprise
an initiative setup process,
a pre-application and an application process,
a reviewer assignment process,
a review and ranking process,
a grant initiative selection process,
a requests of grants financial activities process,
an information transfer process, and

to generate a score;

dynamically evaluating the grant initiative application using customizable decision rule data structures and generating a score;

combining the scores from the reviewer and the grants management system to create a composite score to determine an application to award the grant initiative;

managing financial information of the grant initiative by a grants management system by automatically triggering events comprising a requests of grants financial activities process, an information transfer process, and a financial close out process; and

interfacing with a financial management system to dynamically manage grant initiative transactions and financial transactions associated with a life-cycle of the grant initiative, with the life-cycle comprising pre-application, grant publication, application intake, application review or assessment, grant award, grant administration, and grant closeout.

30. A method to close a grant initiative agreement in a multi-channel grants management system, comprising:

accepting final grant financial reports via a web-portal;

reviewing the financial reports;

informing a grantee of errors;

marking grant agreement as closed by a financial management system and a grants management system;

dynamically determining whether drawdowns exceed accruals and instructing, when it is determined that the drawdowns exceed accruals, to accrue all the drawdowns in the financial management system;

dynamically determining whether obligations exceed the drawdowns and instructing, when it is determined that the obligations exceed the drawdowns, to reduce obligations to equal the drawdowns;

dynamically determining whether commitments exceed the obligations and instructing, when it is determined that the commitments exceed the obligations, to reduce the commitments to equal the obligations; and

closing the grant initiative agreement.

31. A computer readable storage medium controlling a computer and comprising a process of operatively connecting a grants management system to a granting agency and a financial management system; and providing real-time integration between the grants management system and the financial management system allowing the grants management system to dynamically manage grant initiative transactions and financial transactions associated with a life-cycle of a grant initiative from the granting agency by automatically triggering events.

32. The computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 31, wherein the events comprise an initiative setup process, a pre-application and an application process, a reviewer assignment process, a review and ranking process, a grant initiative selection process, a requests of grants financial activities process, an information transfer process, and a financial close out process.

33. A computer readable storage medium controlling a computer and comprising a process performed by a grants management system of receiving a grant initiative from a granting agency via a web-based portal; automatically retrieving and notifying a potential and/or past applicant of availability of the grant initiative; receiving a grant initiative application from an applicant via the web-based portal; dynamically evaluating the grant initiative application using customizable decision rule data structures and generating a score; and interfacing with a financial management system to dynamically manage grant initiative transactions and financial transactions associated with a life-cycle of the grant initiative by automatically triggering events.

34. The computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 33, wherein the events comprise an initiative setup process, a pre-application and an application process, a reviewer assignment process, a review and ranking process, a grant initiative selection process, a requests of grants financial activities process, an information transfer process, and a financial close out process.

35. The computer readable storage medium as recited in claim

33, wherein the life-cycle comprises pre-application, grant publication, application intake, application review or assessment, grant award, grant administration, and grant closeout.

36. A computer readable storage medium controlling a computer and comprising a process of applying for a grant initiative over a web-based portal; dynamically notifying an applicant of problems while applying for the grant initiative; receiving a grant initiative application; dynamically selecting a reviewer that is best qualified to review the grant initiative application according to the grant initiative; notifying the reviewer of the grant initiative assigned for review; evaluating the grant initiative application using customizable decision rule data structures and generating a score; and interfacing with a financial management system to dynamically manage grant initiative transactions and financial transactions associated with a life-cycle of the grant initiative by automatically triggering events.

37. The computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 36, wherein the events comprise an initiative setup process, a pre-application and an application process, a reviewer assignment process, a review and ranking process, a grant initiative selection process, a requests of grants financial activities process, an information transfer process, and a financial close out process.

38. The computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 36, wherein the dynamically selecting the reviewer comprises: dynamically evaluating attributes or data fields of the grant initiative application; dynamically evaluating expertise and workload of the reviewer; and dynamically rating the reviewer based on the expertise and the workload.

39. The computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 36, further comprising automatically triggering e-mail to a grants manager, a financial manager, and/or an applicant about a status of the grant initiative, financial reports, or grant activities.

40. A computer readable storage medium controlling a computer

and comprising a process of receiving an application for a grant initiative; dynamically selecting a reviewer that is best qualified to review the application according to the grant initiative, with the selected reviewer evaluating the grant initiative application and generating a score; dynamically evaluating the grant initiative application by a grants management system using customizable decision rule data structures and generating a score; and combining the scores to create a composite score used to determine the application to award the grant initiative.

41. A computer readable storage medium controlling a computer and comprising a process performed by a grants management system of receiving a grant initiative from a granting agency via a web-based portal; receiving a grant initiative application from an applicant via the web-based portal; dynamically selecting a reviewer that is best qualified to review the application according to the grant initiative from the granting agency and to generate a score; dynamically evaluating the grant initiative application using customizable decision rule data structures and generating a score; combining the scores from the reviewer and the grants management system to create a composite score to determine an application to award the grant initiative; managing financial information of the grant initiative by a grants management system by automatically triggering events comprising a requests of grants financial activities process, an information transfer process, and a financial close out process; and interfacing with a financial management system to dynamically manage grant initiative transactions and financial transactions associated with a life-cycle of the grant initiative, with the life-cycle comprising pre-application, grant publication, application intake, application review or assessment, grant award, grant administration, and grant closeout.

42. A computer readable storage medium controlling a computer to close a grant initiative agreement in a multi-channel grants management system and comprising a process of accepting final grant financial reports via a web-portal; reviewing the financial reports; informing a grantee of errors; marking grant agreement as closed by a financial management system and a grants management system; dynamically determining whether drawdowns exceed accruals and instructing, when it is determined that the drawdowns

exceed accruals, to accrue all the drawdowns in the financial management system; dynamically determining whether obligations exceed the drawdowns and instructing, when it is determined that the obligations exceed the drawdowns, to reduce obligations to equal the drawdowns; dynamically determining whether commitments exceed the obligations and instructing, when it is determined that the commitments exceed the obligations, to reduce the commitments to equal the obligations; and closing the grant initiative agreement.

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